

House Armed Services Committee

DEMOCRATS

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Planning Must Focus on Future Shortfall

WASHINGTON, DC – Today the Military Personnel Subcommittee heard testimony regarding the challenges facing the future of military recruiting and retention efforts.

Subcommittee Ranking Member, Vic Snyder (AR)

"Recruitment is a challenge right now. Both the military and the Congress are working on solutions, but I expect these challenges will be with us for some time. Military service is honorable and can be a real growing opportunity for a young man or woman."

Rep. Loretta Sanchez (CA)

"Our forces are stretched dangerously thin. Current recruiting efforts are falling far short, and the trend does not appear to be reversing or slowing. There must be a greater effort made to adequately plan for the future shortfall this will cause."

"The war on terror is one we cannot afford to lose. We must do everything we can to ensure that the Services can recruit and retain the very best fighting force possible."

Rep. Susan Davis (CA)

"I fear that we're driving down the highway, and our gas tank is running low. We won't be able to reach our destination, and the administration shows no signs of addressing the need."

"I remain concerned that our all-volunteer force has a growing problem, and evidence of inadequate planning abounds. There is continued reliance on the IRR, the possibility of lowered standards, and lack of foresight in budgeting for wartime demands."

"If the administration doesn't act soon, the trip they are taking us on will surely have an unhappy ending."

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